

Attorney Docket No.: DC-0199
Inventors: Cheung et al.
Serial No.: 10/043,539
Filing Date: January 11, 2002
Page 5

The following listing of claims shall replace all previous versions:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-27 (canceled).

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method of screening for lead compounds which inhibit the expression of ~~virulence determinants~~ sarA in *Staphylococcus* comprising:

obtaining one or more Staphylococcal accessory regulatory R (SarR) analogs of a SarR protein having an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1;

contacting said one or more analogs of SarR with a Staphylococcal accessory regulatory A (SarA) protein; and

determining whether said one or more analogs form a heterodimer with the SarA protein wherein the formation of a heterodimer is indicative of a lead compound which inhibits the expression of ~~virulence determinants~~ sarA in *Staphylococcus*.

Claim 29 (canceled).

Claim 30 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising ~~a~~ an isolated and purified compound identified by the screening method of claim 28 ~~or 29~~.

Claim 31 (canceled).